

Gateways to National Park Service Wilderness Information www.inside.nps.gov and www.wilderness.nps.gov

InsideNPS: THE NPS WILDERNESS PROGRAM

InsideNPS, the Information Gateway for NPS Employees, offers Intranet access to a variety of detailed information about NPS programs, including wilderness. The NPS Wilderness Program is accessed from the *InsideNPS* home page (www.inside.nps.gov) by selecting “Programs,” then “Visitor and Resource Protection” under “Directorates,” and finally “Wilderness Program” (www.inside.nps.gov/programs/division.cfm?div=81&page=home).

The Wilderness Program website on *InsideNPS* provides staff with an introduction to NPS wilderness management objectives and accomplishments. As with other NPS program websites, basic information available includes wilderness program contacts, news, training, events, Director’s Orders, reference manuals, and more.

In-depth information includes features such as an on-line text (*Wilderness Management*), the *Annual Wilderness Report*, *National Wilderness Steering Committee Minutes*, *National Wilderness Education Plan*, and *Wild Soundscapes*. Text from the publication *Wilderness Management* is especially helpful as the best overall reference on wilderness management that is presently available.

Convenient links featured on the Wilderness Program website lead NPS staff to related websites including **The Wilderness Visitor** (www.wilderness.nps.gov), Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Wilderness Information Network, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, and Leave No Trace.

THE WILDERNESS VISITOR - www.wilderness.nps.gov

The official website for information on National Park Service wilderness areas and their management is **The Wilderness Visitor** (www.wilderness.nps.gov). This site features five major sections. Work to organize this information and make it available to NPS staff and visitors continues, so visit often to browse new features.

Your Wilderness Visit

This section introduces anyone thinking about visiting National Park Service wilderness areas to the special qualities of wilderness areas and how to visit them safely and carefully. A map is available that features the location of the current NPS wilderness areas with links to information about these places. Also included are tips on how to visit safely, how to minimize impacts on these park areas with Leave No Trace skills, ideas on how to keep the “wild” in wilderness, and information about access for physically challenged individuals.

The “Your Wilderness Visit” section helps people to prepare well for a visit to wilderness, where they can plan to meet wilderness on its terms. Information about area regulations and possible risks from weather, wildlife, and physical features helps website visitors prepare for safer wilderness experiences that leave no trace on the parks.

Wilderness Visitor Facts

This section introduces website visitors to seven important sources of information related to NPS wilderness and its management:

Wilderness Law Library contains copies of the Wilderness Act, legislation that created NPS wilderness areas, and other pertinent wilderness-related legislation.

Wilderness Policy and Guidance contains all the additional guidance related to wilderness management—Department of Interior policy, solicitor’s opinions, NPS policy, and wilderness program materials.

Wilderness Education contains the *NPS Wilderness Education and Partnership Plan*, material from this *Wilderness Education and Interpretation Resource Notebook*, and other educational materials generated by the plan or from other sources.

Wilderness Management Plans is a repository for wilderness and backcountry plans that have been completed to date. This section also features the new Wilderness Management Plan model/ template that provides guidance on how to complete these plans for NPS wilderness areas.

Wilderness Science and Research provides a link to the wealth of wilderness science and research stored at the interagency Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute in Missoula, Montana.

Wilderness Reports and Briefing Statements contains wilderness reports and NPS wilderness briefing statements.

Wilderness Review Process contains information generated by the NPS wilderness review process. This includes Wilderness Suitability Assessments, Wilderness Proposals, and Wilderness Recommendations.

Wilderness News

This section provides any news relevant to NPS wilderness, as well as links to the NPS Press Room, the NPS Morning Report, and the interagency wilderness website, www.wilderness.net.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Wilderness? features frequently asked questions and answers about NPS wilderness.

Perspectives on the Idea of Wilderness contains varying perspectives on wilderness, including a visual time line that traces the idea of wilderness from 1500 to the present.

Wilderness—An Enduring Resource includes interesting reading on wilderness and a reading list to locate additional resources on this topic.

Wilderness Managers Toolbox

The Wilderness Managers Toolbox provides access to all information about NPS Wilderness for visitors and staff. Three major sections of the toolbox include Law, Policy and Guidance, Wilderness Program Information, and Wilderness References and Miscellaneous materials.

Law, Policy, and Guidance contains all available information on NPS wilderness legislation, Departmental Policy, NPS Policy, and NPS Wilderness Program Guidance.

Wilderness Program Information features information related to the NPS Wilderness Review Process, information on wilderness planning, copies of wilderness plans, the Servicewide *Wilderness Education Plan*, educational and interpretive materials, and information on the NPS Wilderness Awards Program.

Wilderness References and Miscellaneous includes a number of valuable references including the new “Wilderness Management” text, information on recreation management, and details about building a friends organization.

Wilderness.Net: Your Portal to Wilderness Information www.wilderness.net



Focused Purpose and Approach

Wilderness.net is an Internet-based tool to connect the natural resource workforce, scientists, educators, and the public to their wilderness heritage through ready access to current wilderness information. Wilderness.net is a partnership between the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, and the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute. The University of Montana provides hardware and software, and the webmaster is a University of Montana employee. Funding is provided by the Carhart Center and Leopold Institute.

Daily use of this Internet site has increased tenfold since it began in 1998. The website was selected by the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, as a case study for successful use of the Internet to achieve agency goals. Similarly, the 2001 Pinchot Report on the status of wilderness highlights the contributions Wilderness.net has made to improve collaboration and communication in wilderness stewardship. The website has proven to be an important National Park Service tool to foster development of a personal stewardship ethic among wilderness visitors and to broaden public support for wilderness.

Focused Information

Wilderness.net includes information about America's wilderness areas, wilderness education, research, and issues. The website is accessed by managers, scientists, educators, and the public.

America's Wilderness provides information about the more than 640 wilderness areas that comprise the National Wilderness Preservation System. A search engine can be used to locate wilderness areas by name, agency, size, state, or year of enacting legislation. Links to individual wilderness area web pages provide more information. Included are full-text versions of laws and agency policy that affect wilderness management in the United States.

Wilderness Education provides direct links to information about the **K-12 Wilderness and Land Ethics Curriculum**, **Wilderness Management Distance Education Project**, **Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center**, **International Journal of Wilderness**, **Buffalo Soldier Project**, **Obata Project**, and **WildLink**. WildLink is a project designed to introduce high school students from culturally diverse urban and rural schools to wilderness through classroom curriculum, data collection, and interactive opportunities.

Wilderness Research provides a direct link to the **Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute** site and the **International Journal of Wilderness**. It includes access to wilderness research publications through a database that is searchable by author, title, date, keyword, category, and subcategory.

Wilderness Issues The Carhart Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute are working to develop a wilderness issues searchable database to help managers find information about critical wilderness stewardship subjects. Once completed, web visitors will be offered information about a specific wilderness issue through access to research publications, law, policy, legislative history, court cases, and case studies on the topic.

Leopold Institute Website www.leopold.wilderness.net



Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (Leopold Institute), a federal research group, is entirely focused on wilderness issues. Operating under a memorandum of understanding among the federal agencies that have wilderness management or research responsibility—the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey—the Leopold Institute conducts, coordinates, and facilitates research on ecological and social issues related to wilderness management and preservation. In addition to developing information, the Leopold Institute is dedicated to making information useful and accessible to managers and others interested in wilderness management.

Leopold Institute Website Features

About Us introduces wilderness, Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Institute's goals of (1) developing the knowledge needed to protect and preserve wilderness and the ecological and social values derived from wilderness and similarly managed lands; and (2) communicating and applying this knowledge to the wilderness management agencies and others. Links are provided to the Leopold Institute's Strategic Plan, yearly highlights, and how to locate the Institute in Missoula, Montana.

Hot Topics details the Institute's work on specific topics that are timely and critical to sustaining wilderness, such as maintaining and restoring fire to wilderness areas, wilderness restoration, wilderness monitoring, day- and high-density recreation use, recreation user fees, recreation use estimation, wilderness mapping, and wildlife management activities in wilderness. These topics are in addition to the Institute's research emphases.

Research Program provides information about the Leopold Institute's research emphases, priority research questions, current research projects, completed research projects, and associated publications. The "Research in a Nutshell" link highlights the results, management implications, and associated publications and products for selected research projects conducted through the Leopold Institute.

Research Application Program works to ensure that research information is readily available and useful to managers, educators, policy makers, other scientists, and the public. Available products include research syntheses and briefings.

Staff leads site visitors to information on the background, current interests, and publications of Leopold Institute personnel.

Conferences and Workshops posts updated information on events such as the George Wright Society conference and workshops that involve the Leopold Institute staff as co-hosts or substantial contributors. Proceedings from past conferences are available.

Publications A searchable database features publications produced by Leopold Institute staff and cooperators. Browsers may search by either category (Natural or Human Disturbance, Non-Native Species, Recreation, Research and Wilderness, Wilderness in Landscapes, Wilderness in Social Systems, Wildlife, or Other Wilderness Management Issues) or by author, keyword, or year. *(A publication order form allows website visitors to obtain these publications, free of charge. This page also provides a link for ordering non-Institute publications.)*

Databases and Links provides wilderness-related website links and access to Institute databases. These include the National Wilderness Preservation System Database, invasive species databases, and the Wilderness Issues database.

